

The question of recognition of genera and subspecies is of course a matter of personal opinion, though he brings out some important and original facts in treating of the Gannets and Frigate Bird.

In consideration of the general accuracy of minute details we might call attention to the apparent omission of a synonym under *Mesocarbo ater ater*. We are informed in the last paragraph that the bird figured is the type of *M. a. territorii* but this name occurs nowhere else in the article. So also with *Hypoleucus varius whytei* under *H. v. perthi*.

We note as new forms only the following *Phalacrocorax carbo indicus* (p. 171) India; *Scæophaethon rubricauda rothschildi* (p. 303) Laysan, Niuhau; *S. r. brevirostris* (p. 303) Bonin Isls. Most of the new names required in the treatment of the Pelecaniformes have been previously published in the 'Austral Avian Record'.—W. S.

**Recent Monographs by Oberholser.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Oberholser has recently published the results of three careful systematic studies of the American Spotted Owl; the Ruddy Kingfisher; and Long-tailed Goatsucker of the far East.

He finds that the four recognized races of the Spotted Owl resolve themselves into two valid forms. *Strix o. occidentalis* of the Pacific Coast region of which *S. o. caurina* is a synonym and *S. o. lucida* ranging from Colorado and western Texas to northern Mexico, of which *S. o. huachucae* is a synonym. The presence of a dark and light phase of plumage in this species is responsible in part for the description of so many supposed races.

Of the Kingfisher *Entomothera coromanda* nine races are recognized of which five are new. *E. c. mizorhina* (p. 645) N. Andaman Isl.; *E. c. neophora* (p. 646), Tapanuli Bay, Sumatra; *E. c. pagana* (p. 648), N. Pagi Isl., Sumatra; *E. c. ochrothorectis* (p. 652), Masbate Isl., Philippines, and *E. c. bangsi* (p. 654) Ishigaki Isl., Riu Kiu Isls.

The goatsucker, *Caprimulgus macrurus*, is also divisible into nine races, *C. m. mesophanis* (p. 590), Ambrina Isl. and *C. m. anamesus* (p. 593), Singapore Isl., being new. These papers straighten out three difficult groups of birds very satisfactorily.—W. S.

**Nature and Science on the Pacific Coast.**<sup>2</sup>—This little volume is

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<sup>1</sup> Critical Notes on the Subspecies of the Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis* (Xantus). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 49, pp. 251-257. July 26, 1915.

A Review of the Subspecies of the Ruddy Kingfisher, *Entomothera coromanda* (Linnæus). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 48, pp. 639-657. May 18, 1915.

A Synopsis of the Races of the Long-tailed Goatsucker, *Caprimulgus macrurus* Horsfield. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 48, pp. 587-599. May 3, 1915.

<sup>2</sup> Nature and Science on the Pacific Coast. A Guide-book for Scientific Travelers in the West. Edited under the Auspices of the Pacific Coast Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Illustrated with Nineteen text figures, twenty-nine half-tone plates and fourteen maps. Paul Elder and Company, Publishers. San Francisco. 12 mo., pp. 1-294.

admirably adapted to its purpose — that of furnishing in concise form such information as the numerous visitors to the coast during the Panama Pacific Exposition, who are interested in nature, will be likely to desire. The work will however have a permanent value to the numerous tourists who are constantly visiting California, and as a general work of reference.

The several chapters are written by specialists on the subjects of which they treat and are accompanied by illustrations and by a brief bibliography from which books treating the matter in further detail may be selected.

Dr. Joseph Grinnell not only edits the volume for the Committee but also treats of 'The Vertebrate Fauna of the Pacific Coast' exclusive of the fishes, and in a few pages gives one a good idea of the diversity of forms represented, and their distribution in the several life zones and faunal areas. There are thirty other chapters on various topics, zoölogical, botanical, geological, mineralogical, etc. Dr. Grinnell's contribution has also been issued as a separate.— W. S.

**Murphy on 'The Penguins of South Georgia.'**<sup>1</sup>— Several papers dealing with the results of Mr. Murphy's expedition to South Georgia have appeared in 'The Auk' and elsewhere and a number of scientific societies have been made familiar with the avifauna of the island through his lectures and admirable lantern slides. In the present paper the photographs from which many of the lantern slides were made appear as half-tone plates, while the text places on permanent record his observations on the life history of the penguins which constitute the main population of South Georgia.

The two species which are still plentiful are the "Johnny" Penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*) and the King Penguin (*Aptenodytes patachonica*), and only one other was observed by Mr. Murphy, the Ringed Penguin (*Pygoscelis antarctica*) and of it only three individuals. Later information however showed also the presence of the Macaroni Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*).

Mr. Murphy presents a very interesting account of the habits, molt, coloration, etc., of the two species which he was able to study and compares his experience with that of others.

The "Johnny" Penguin he states "has not in any degree the fearless and courageous disposition of its Antarctic congener *Pygoscelis adeliae*," and he shows further that it lacks the jumping and diving ability of that species. This he attributes to the fact that it has "a Subantarctic range and breeds on no land which has an ice-shelved coast." So that the need for such phenomenal jumping power disappears.

Mr. Murphy emphasizes the current misstatements regarding penguins. Taking for example such a work as the 'Cambridge Natural History'

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<sup>1</sup> The Penguins of South Georgia. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Science Bull. Mus. Brooklyn Inst. Arts. and Sci., Vol. 2, No. 5, pp. 103-133. August 2, 1915.